

House Bill 1599

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56th and Thomas of the 55th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-1A-10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing, commission, and registration of early care and education programs, so as to provide for a five-star rating system of early care and education programs; to provide for certification of excellence of early care and education programs in specific areas of service; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for notation of any certification on the program's license, registration, or commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 20-1A-10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing, commission, and registration of early care and education programs, is amended by adding a subsection (c.1) to read as follows:

"(c.1) The rules and regulations to be promulgated by the department pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section shall include without limitation the following:

(1) A five-star rating system to be applied to all early care and education programs operated within this state, which shall be based on program standards, education levels of staff, and compliance history of the program;

(2) Criteria for certification in mental health services for children, teachers with excellent qualifications, excellent teacher-child ratio, and services for overweight or obese children;

(3) That an early care and education program may earn one or more than one certification, but certification shall not be required for a license, registration, or commission; and

(4) The license, commission, or registration issued to an early care and education program shall include a notation of any certification earned by the program."

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.